

The specification has been added to include, on a separate page, the Abstract of Application No. PCT/FR98/00883, which is the present case.

The claims have been amended to be in more traditional U.S. format.

The originally-filed Figure 16, has been replaced by the attached amended Figure 16, which includes the missing information of the originally-filed Figure 16, as supported by the specification. No new matter has been added. Support for the change is detailed below.

Figure 16 has been amended in the "consensus" sequence, as the last two amino acids of the three sets of 10 amino acids at the right margin of the page were not included in the originally-filed Figure 16. The applicants note, however, that one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the representation of sequences in Figure 16 should have included sets of 10 amino acids and the three sets on the right margin only contain eight (see, circled and highlighted sets of amino acids). As noted in the originally-filed Figure 16, this figure shows the alignment of SEQ ID NOs: 11, 13, 15, 14 and 12 to form the consensus SEQ ID NO: 17.

SEQ ID NOs: 11, 13, 15, 14 and 12, as originally-filed are shown in Figures 10B, 12B, 14B, 13B and 11B (copies attached with missing amino acids of original Figure 16 highlighted), respectively. One of ordinary skill would appreciate that the missing amino acids of Figure 16 are "TF" in the first set (i.e., amino acids 49 and 50 of the consensus sequence, amino acids 49 and 50 of Figure 10B, (SEQ ID NO: 11), amino acids 22 and 23 of Figure 12B (SEQ ID NO: 13), amino acids 20 and 21 of Figure 14B (SEQ ID NO: 15), amino acids 44 and 45 of Figure 13B (SEQ ID NO: 14), and amino acids 36 and 37 of Figure 11B (SEQ ID NO: 12)). Similarly, one of ordinary skill would appreciate that the missing amino acids of the second set in Figure 16 are "RK" (amino acids 99 and 100 of the consensus sequence). See, amino acids 99 and 100 of SEQ

ID NO: 11 (Figure 10B), amino acids 71 and 72 of SEQ ID NO: 13 (Figure 12B), amino acids 70 and 71 of SEQ ID NO: 15 (Figure 14B), amino acids 94 and 95 of SEQ ID NO: 14 (Figure 13B) and amino acids 86 and 87 of SEQ ID NO: 12 (Figure 11B). Finally, one of ordinary skill would appreciate the amino acids missing from the third block of ten amino acids in the originally-filed Figure 16 are "SR" (amino acids 149 and 150 of the consensus sequence). See amino acids 149 and 150 of SEQ ID NO: 11 (Figure 10B), and amino acids 122 and 123 of SEQ ID NO: 13 (Figure 12B).

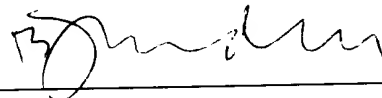
Moreover, the corresponding DNA consensus sequence shown in the attached copy of Figure 15 wherein the correct DNA encoding the amino acid consensus sequence of originally-filed Figure 16 is circled and highlighted in pink, further demonstrates the applicants were in possession of the correct sequence and inserting of the attached amended Figure 16 does not enter new matter. A separate Request to the Chief Draftsperson for approval to amend Figure 16 as noted, is attached.

Entry of the above and attached, and an early Action of the merits are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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